

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #9
May 26, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE: This week the WHO updated the count of human cases of H5N1 influenza to 218, including 124 deaths (56.9%). This count includes one more case and death than was reported the previous week. That additional case was from Indonesia. The man who died is part of a family cluster in North Sumatra. He is the 7th member of an extended family to become infected with H5N1 influenza and the 6th member of the family to die from it. An additional family member is assumed to have had the disease, but she was the first to become ill and was not tested for the virus. All members of the family had close and prolonged contact with a person who was severely ill. The Indonesian Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization have intensified their investigation and response in this area, including searching for additional cases of influenza-like illness. They have found no evidence of spread within the general community and no evidence of efficient spread of the virus from human-to-human. The H5N1 influenza virus has been identified and was found to be the same strain of the virus that has been identified in other human cases as well as the same strain that was identified in poultry in North Sumatra during a previous outbreak.

- DHHS is making progress toward finalizing the award of Tamiflu contracts with Roche and SKG but no specific timeframe is available. States will make purchases within 24 months, commencing when contracts are in place.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- The next Pan Flu Advisory Committee meeting has been scheduled in June 28th 0900-1300, at Expressions in the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center.
- VDH continues a series of Community Based Emergency Response System (CBERS) Isolation and Quarantine Exercises. In addition to Health participants, Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, Judicial / Legal, Medical Examiner, Hospitals and Mental Health partners have participated.
- VDH representatives presented information on pandemic influenza preparedness at Radford University for the Virginia Police Chiefs' Foundation in-service training; like presentation to Deputy Chiefs in early June.
- VDH presented PanFlu presentation to Southwest Virginia Dentists' Association.
- Leaders' meeting to coordinate MD and DC participation in VDH Oct 23-26 PanFlu Response Exercise scheduled on May 30; planner conference, June 12, both at Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.
- VDH conducted its annual Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R) Training / Conference this week. Numerous subject matter experts were on hand to share information on a host of EP&R issues to include Hurricane Planning, PanFlu Planning, Volunteer Management, Special Needs Populations Considerations, Drinking Water Preparedness, The National Response Plan, Food Safety and Defense, HAZMAT / Decon, CDC Quarantine Station Activities.
- Upcoming Regional and Local PanFlu Summits are scheduled as follows:

Far SW Region	July 20
Near SW Region	June 20
Lord Fairfax	June 22
Eastern Shore	Late July
Fairfax	May 26

Pittsylvania-Danville	Late July
Rappahannock-Rapidan	June 21
Central Shenandoah	June 30
Middle Peninsula	August 1

- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports

- **Three Rivers**
 - Will host a Pandemic Flu Summit for the Middle Peninsula on August 1.
- **Rappahannock**
 - District Epidemiologist and the District West Nile Virus coordinator addressed plans for collecting and mapping dead bird reports, and for forwarding dead bird reports to VDACS and VDGIF.
 - Planner and the Epidemiologist distributed pandemic flu talking points to District staff.
 - Epidemiologist contacted Dahlgren and Fort A.P. Hill to discuss communicable disease/ PanFlu reporting and planning.
 - The draft PanFlu plan goal and objectives were reviewed and approved by the Pandemic Flu Working Group. The District will form subcommittees based on the Group's objectives: training, media, public education, surge capacity, pharmaceutical distribution, and schools. These groups will meet separately from the Pandemic Flu Working Group, but will report back to it at least every two months. As part of this subcommittee effort, the District Director, Planner, and Epidemiologist will arrange a meeting for the Superintendents and School Nurse Coordinators to begin addressing school preparedness.
 - The Epidemiologist and the Planner participated in a PanFlu continuity of government tabletop exercise in Spotsylvania County. There were 55 participants, including most of the County's department heads.
 - The District Director and Planner will present PanFlu preparedness information to all of the area's jurisdictional city/county administrators at their meeting in Bowling Green.
 - The Rappahannock Medical Reserve Corps will hold training on the indicators of a pandemic influenza outbreak, presented by the district epidemiologist.
 - The Central Rappahannock Library System is circulating copies of the PanFlu videos that the District provided. According to the Chief Librarian, the copies are enjoying brisk distribution.
 - The District has requested that Mary Washington Hospital run copies of the endless loop English-Spanish pan flu DVD on its Emergency Department waiting room TV monitors.
 - Through the area's School Nurse Coordinators, the District Epidemiologist has distributed the CDC's pandemic flu preparedness checklist for schools and the K-12 Planning Issues identified at the Pandemic Flu Summit in Richmond.
 - The District Director and Planner met with the Mary Washington Hospital medical leadership and with the Hospital's executive management team. The topic was the planning and medical aspects of a pan flu outbreak with specific reference to the hospital's role. There were 30 doctors, nurses, and members of the Board of Directors present.
 - The District is working with the Hospital's Nursing Center of Excellence to develop outbreak management training.
 - The Director will conduct a CME class on May 26 at Mary Washington Hospital for physicians on the medical aspects of pandemic flu.
 - The District received approval for a supplemental pandemic flu budget from the Central Office, requesting a health educator position and several forms of survey funding. The District is now actively seeking a Health Educator applicant. The District plans to launch its public education program as soon as the Health Educator is hired.

- The District is assessing its supplies of personal protective equipment.
- **Roanoke**
 - Met with City of Salem to discuss PanFlu planning efforts. Attending were representatives from emergency management, EMS, Fire, City management, and schools, representatives from the VA Hospital and Lewis Gale Hospital.
 - Ad placed in Roanoke Times for Health Educator.
- **Crater**
 - Mass vaccination drill was held May 20th at the Petersburg High School.
 - ✓Ninety-eight participants from the public attended the event. Sixty staff members also played the role of participants when not on shift.
 - ✓The information packet distributed to participants included:
 - “Are You Ready”, a FEMA Preparedness manual
 - “Get Ready for Emergencies and Disasters, Developing Your Disaster Plan”, a Virginia Department of Emergency Manager brochure
 - “Pandemic Influenza Planning: A Guide for Individuals and Families”, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services brochure
 - Information Sheet – “Disaster Supply Kit”
 - Information Sheet – “Protect Against Infections”
 - ✓The scenario was executed by a motivated District staff that performed extremely well, allowing us to learn the strengths and limitations of our plans.
 - ✓Media coverage leading up to the event included an on-air interview of the Health Director, by radio station WRVA. A telephone interview was conducted by The Progress Index of our District Planner. WRTV Channel 6 interviewed the Health Director. All the interviews stressed the importance of the drill, encouraged public participation and emergency preparedness.
 - ✓WRTV Channel 6 covered the event on May 20th, interviewing a participant and taping inside the facility. The Progress Index interviewed participants and the Health Director.
 - ✓Feedback has been positive from the public who attended and have since visited the health department.
 - ✓A member of Congressman Randy Forbes’ staff attended. A letter of acknowledgment citing the organization and educational components of the drill was received and is attached.
- **Peninsula**
 - The Director met with the vice president for student services and 10 other senior leaders at Christopher Newport University to provide background and to discuss PanFlu planning and preparation efforts for the university students, faculty and staff.
 - Planning continues for the two community-focused tabletop exercises: 24 invitations were sent to specific governmental, community, healthcare, and business leaders for the June 15th tabletop exercise in Williamsburg and 27 invitations for the June 22nd tabletop exercise in Newport News.
 - Letters were sent to approximately 220 child care centers providing guidance and resources and offering assistance and consultation for their pandemic influenza planning and preparation efforts.
 - The Peninsula Medical Reserve Corps has been launched successfully and has had good volunteer response. Training for volunteers and planning for their participation and support of tabletop exercises and mass vaccination exercises is well underway. The Peninsula MRC website is active at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/MRC/peninsulamrc/>.

- **Chesapeake**

- A Chesapeake Pandemic Flu Task Force was established and held its first monthly meeting. Previously, PanFlu planning had been part of the Mass Disaster Planning Committee (MDPC). This division will enable a more focused emphasis on pandemic influenza issues and accommodate a larger group of stakeholders. Members represent a variety of city departments and agencies as well as our local hospital and private physician offices.
- A part-time Administrative Assistant was hired to assist with the pandemic flu planning effort. This individual is also a MPH graduate student at Eastern Virginia Medical School.
- Pandemic Task Force members will participate in "The City that Cares Spring Festival 2006" on June 7, 2006. Events are planned to raise awareness among Chesapeake's city employees concerning good hygiene habits and other tips to keep them healthy during the flu season which in turn will keep them and their family members healthy during a flu pandemic.
- At this week's City Council meeting, the Mayor asked what the city was doing to prepare for an avian flu pandemic so it provided an opportunity to summarize our activities as well as promote things to be done by individuals and organizations. All aired on the city's TV channel.

- **Southside**

- Emergency planner met with Halifax County School Administration staff re: PanFlu readiness. Will use Elementary schools as organization point for providing Pandemic Flu outreach and education to school staff, teachers, students and families and surrounding residents this Fall.
- Will present pandemic Flu readiness workshop for teachers in August, conduct "town hall" meetings in Elementary schools in September, October & November.
- Will provide all classrooms in all schools in three counties with large bottles of hand sanitizer along with good hygiene information, posters, etc. Emergency planner will meet with Mecklenburg and Brunswick County school administration to propose same.
- Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative has offered to work with the District on distributing disaster readiness information to all 20,000 customers.
- Emergency Planner attended the first meeting of the Halifax Regional Hospital's PanFlu Preparedness Task Force on May 19. Will continue to meet monthly.
- Nurse manager and business manager participated in VDEM/ VDH regional tabletop exercise that focused on sheltering evacuees from the Tidewater VA region. Counties involved included Halifax, Mecklenburg, Brunswick and several counties from Piedmont Health District.
- Planning for a Pandemic Flu Tabletop Exercise for Mecklenburg County local government, businesses, county emergency services, hospital, civic organizations, EMS, fire, and law enforcement agencies on June 9.
- District will hold first meeting of the Halifax County Pandemic Coordinating Committee on June 9 at the Halifax Regional Hospital. Community partners invited include: school administration, key hospital staff, businesses, church groups, CSB, DSS, ARC, Law Enforcement, Emergency Services, town and county managers, DOT, private physicians' office managers, etc.
- Mecklenburg Public Health nurse attended the Mecklenburg School Health Advisory Committee where the PanFlu DVD was shown. Mecklenburg school nurse is attending the County PanFlu Tabletop. Tentative dates for presentation to Mecklenburg School nurses set for August.

- Hiring for temp positions is underway with goal of having onboard by early June.
- **Lenowisco**
 - Director met with the medical staff, at medical staff meetings, of the following hospitals: Mt View Regional Medical Center (12 physicians, hospital admin, ICP and other dept/management staff present), Wellmont Lonesome Pine Hospital (11 physicians, 10 other hospital management staff present), Lee Regional Medical Center (13 physicians, several hospital management representatives). Provided all groups with overview of emergency planning efforts in the locality, region and state; overview of H5N1 avian flu; reviewed planning efforts of their own facility; inquired/encouraged their participation in local planning efforts including plans for their personal family members, their own practices, and working with their affiliate institutions to develop and be part of their plan development. Provided checklist for medical practice sites for emergency planning (from CDC website); fact sheet on pan flu; updated emergency contact information for HD staff; information on laboratory testing/DCLS services and access; communicable disease reporting; ACP position paper on pan flu preparedness.
 - Met with Scott Co LEPC to discuss reactivation of LEPC in that county; discussed pan flu preparedness activities in the county with that group; scheduled a formal presentation to the Scott Co LEPC and other interested/involved county reps for June.
 - Met with Wise County Schools to discuss preparedness efforts, crisis response teams and how they would respond to PanFlu. Future, larger scale meetings scheduled.
- **Henrico**
 - District continued to develop the Medical Reserve Corps by holding a monthly training session on 5/24/06.
- **Prince William**
 - Developed and distributed pandemic influenza personal and family preparedness surveys to all health department staff (in order to determine state of preparedness.
 - Met with health department exercise planning committee to plan for vaccination storage in the event of loss of power, etc. during the October Exercise and during routine seasonal flu clinic.
 - Contacted public works department to establish date for engineers to survey each of the four health department buildings for placement of power generators during an emergency.
 - Working with public works management to develop security plan for generators during an emergency.
 - Epidemiologist created screening checklist for pandemic influenza.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
 - Planner provided pandemic influenza preparedness information to the Russell County Emergency Services Coordinator to facilitate partnerships in the PanFlu planning process.
 - Epidemiologist met with Tazewell County school officials to begin the school system's PanFlu planning process.
 - Environmental Health Manager met with the TRIAD Group at the Richlands Police Department with 12 attendees that were provided CDC's PanFlu Planning Checklist for Individuals and Families.
 - Planner participated in a Hot Wash of the Community Based Emergency Response System (CBERS) Isolation and Quarantine training session recently attended by CPHD stakeholders (i.e., health participants, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, Fire Departments, Judicial/Legal, Hospitals, and Mental Health partners).

- Epidemiologist and Planner participated in the Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit planning meeting with representatives from five (5) local public health agencies from Virginia and Tennessee. The Summit is scheduled for July 20, 2006 at Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Abingdon.
- **Lord Fairfax**
 - The District Planner held the first meeting of the Winchester/Frederick Pandemic Influenza Emergency Operations Task Force with Winchester Fire/Rescue, Frederick County Fire/Rescue, Winchester Medical Center, Winchester Office of Emergency Management, Winchester City Administration. Issues discussed:
 - Who else need to be included
 - Joint Information Center plan, policies and procedure development
 - Continuity of Operations/Government
 - Public Education
 - Staff/employee training
 - Response plan review/development